

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-59. By this paper, Applicants amend claims 23 and 33 for clarification of certain features to expedite allowance of the present application. These amendments do not add any new matter. Applicants cancel claims 1-22, 41-53, and 56-59 without prejudice for possible inclusion in one or more continuing applications and add claims 60-79. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 23-40, 54, 55, and 60-79 will remain pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her participation in a telephonic interview with the undersigned representative on February 17, 2004. In this interview, the prior art of record, the claims of the present patent application, and the manner of classifying the pending claims were generally discussed. Particularly, during the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner agreed on reinstatement of the restriction requirement in the Office Action mailed July 20, 2004. Applicants elect to prosecute those claims falling under class 211, namely claims 23-40, 54, and 55, corresponding to Group II as delineated by the Examiner in the previous communication. As indicated above, Applicants have canceled those claims relating to the non-elected groups.

The Examiner and Applicants' representative also reached an agreement on amendments to claims 23 and 33 that more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention and that these claims, as amended, are allowable over the prior art of record. By the present Response, claims 23 and 33 have been amended in the agreed upon manner. Accordingly, claims 23-40, 54, and 55 are believed allowable over the prior art. Additionally, as also discussed during the interview of February 17, 2004, Applicants have added new claims 60-79 which recite features similar to those recited in claims 23-40, 54, and 55, except utilizing the transitional phrase "consisting essentially of," and are drawn to the same group Applicants elected above. Consequently, claims 60-79 are also believed allowable over the prior art of record. For the reasons provided above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

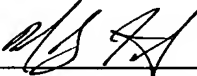
Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Authorization for Extensions of Time and Payment of Fees

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request thereof. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 08-2025; Order No. 200302235-2/FLE.

Respectfully submitted,

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